

PROWLER INVESTIGATIONS

FBI National Academy

Instructor _____

Date _____

PROWLER INVESTIGATIONS

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The prowler is one of the more persistent and more dangerous individuals who daily confront the police. Each night and day, calls are received at both large and small police departments, urban and rural, complaining of prowlers in the area.

An effective investigation of the prowler is one of the most important services you can render to your community. It is a most reassuring one because when either a man or a woman knows that there is someone out in the dark lying in wait for them or trying to get in, it is a moment of terror, and there is no one the public can turn to but the police.

I. MOTIVATION

The prowler is the cat of the criminal jungle. He is psychologically disturbed and forced to prowl by inner mysterious compulsions. He prowls mostly at night but sometimes even in the day.

II. THE DANGER

The danger of the prowler exists in himself because he never knows what he is going to find. He may start out as a Peeping Tom to end up as a rapist or murderer. He may start out as a thief to end up molesting a child. He may intend to ease his many inner tensions by walking only to end as a burglar, thief, or sex offender.

He never knows what sudden opportunity will present itself, and therefore, he is usually uncertain as to what he will do.

Many times in our lives each of us have gone out intending to take a short walk, get a beer, or get a newspaper. You meet someone, you may talk with them, ride with them, and it will be hours before you return. You had no intention of doing any of these things, but the opportunity presented itself and you went.

III. TYPES OF PROWLERS

There are many types of prowlers:

A. The Psychopath

This is an individual who has inner tensions, frustrations, and a general feeling of restlessness. You cannot say he is dissatisfied with his home life, and this is the reason for his prowling as this may not be the case. It may be because these inner tensions build up inside him, and the only way he can seek release or relief is by walking it off.

B. The Thief

These individuals intend to steal anything they can find - Christmas tree lights, porch furniture, garden hoses, garden equipment, bicycles, toys, things that don't have intrinsic value. This constant thievery is a source of great inner satisfaction. It feeds a hunger, a need, or possibly a fetish, and who is to say they will not take advantage of an opportunity to burglarize or commit some vicious offense.

Do not confuse the thief with the panty or lingerie snatcher who purloins these articles from clothes lines not for the primary reason that he is a thief, but because it satisfies an urgent sex need.

C. The Burglar

These individuals can roughly be divided into experts and novices.

1. The Expert

- a. Has necessary equipment - Tools etc.
- b. Usually has the house or place of business staked out.
- c. Is familiar with exits and entrances.
- d. Works by a plan.
- e. Will do anything to avoid encounter with the owner of the house.

2. The Novice

He is more dangerous because he is just searching for a house to burglarize.

- a. He has made no plan.
- b. Has crude equipment.
- c. Will very often arouse the residents.
- d. May kill or injure in his fear of arrest.

D. The Robber

The robber is usually a brutal character because he intends to take by force and at the point of a weapon. It may be a gun, a knife, a club, or even a noose or other weapon. He

intends to come face to face with his victim and is therefore to be more feared than the burglar or thief.

The Robber can usually be divided into three classes:

1. The Holdup Man

He surprises his victim at the point of a weapon and demands money and valuables. He will then give instructions for the victim to lie down, keep walking, disrobe, or tie him or her up. He is satisfied with what he gets, and robbery is his sole purpose.

2. The Mugger

This individual gives the victim no opportunity. He makes immediate contact either by striking him down from behind with a club or choking him around the neck with a noose or his forearm. He intends to injure his victim without giving him a chance to resist.

3. The Sadist - Flagellant

This is an individual to be feared. He merely uses the holdup as a means of satisfying his sadistic propensities. He secures great delight in viciously beating a helpless terrified victim. Money and valuables are usually secondary in his scheme of action. He wants to see suffering and in the extreme-blood and terror. He wants to hear cries for mercy and shrieks of agony or have his victim beg for his or her life.

E. The Sex Offender

1. The Exhibitionist

These individuals continually prowl both day and night for the purpose of exhibiting themselves. They may be inclined towards partial or total disrobement. They seek secluded places and invariably return to a particular scene of activity inasmuch as the surroundings may be symbolic in his sexual activities. They hide behind shrubs, in alleys, or operate from parked cars.

2. The Voyeur or Peeping Tom

Unfortunately this individual is often regarded as a harmless person engaging in nuisance type acts. This is not always the case. The Peeping Tom must be definitely considered to have a dangerous potential. His passions are aroused by what he sees, and who is going to say what his intentions will be or where they will end. These prowlers are most active since their whole sex life depends upon gratification obtained through the eye. What they see is their principal source of sex pleasure or is the stimulus which is so needed to prod them into additional activities.

Favorite haunts of this prowler are lovers lanes, parks, and secluded places usually frequented by couples. Some authorities claim they are satisfied by observing these activities. A long series of serious sex offenses prove that peeking is not always a means of sufficient satisfaction for the voyeur.

One notorious sex offender who was executed for the rape murder of a young girl confessed to being a long-time voyeur.

He would watch young couples engage in sex play, become excited and wait until the fellow left, and then endeavor to rape the girl feeling that he was just as much entitled to her favors as her boy friend.

These offenses, assaults and rapes, are seldom reported to the police, inasmuch as those concerned are reluctant to admit to their presence in such places or to the identity of their partner.

3. The Pedophile or Child Molester

These individuals are always on the prowl for children. This is a prowler who works day and night. His favorite haunts are places frequented by children:

- a. Playgrounds
- b. Movies
- c. Schools and schoolyards
- d. Amusement centers (circuses, fairs, carnivals)
- e. Parks
- f. Railroad and bus stations
- g. Public toilets
- h. Picnics, outings, swimming pools
- i. Vacant lots - dark streets
- j. Deserted houses
- k. Anywhere a contact might be made.

There is no age limit to the pedophile. He can be between the ages of 10 and 70, usually makes a presentable appearance, and may work from an automobile or from his nearby apartment or home.

Their operation is a serious problem or danger. It may result in mutilation or murder of the child, or even in the case of minor sex play there may be serious consequences because of fear of discovery particularly when the pedophile has a series of arrests for this offense.

Illustrations:

Albert Fish, whose son stated he was always on the prowl.

Frank Strobel in San Francisco who killed because the little girl threatened to tell her parents, and who had a long history of morals offenses.

4. The Rapist

There are no ifs, ands, or buts about the rapist. His intention is clear. He wants to have sex by force, and this may be accompanied by beating, stabbing, choking, or even murder. He must have force in his sex relations in order to satisfy his perverted desires. Therefore, it is essential that a definite pattern chart be made in the case of each rape.

It should show:

- a. Place
- b. Time
- c. Day
- d. Weather

- e. Victim type
- f. Method of approach
- g. Method of completion
- i. Words uttered
- j. Weapons shown
- k. Description

Police authorities believe that only one out of every ten rapes or less are reported to the police. In one instance a rape murder was solved in Illinois several years ago when police advertised in the newspaper requesting women who were the victims of unreported rapes to come forward and give information which might help catch the criminal with the assurance that their identity would be kept secret. Twenty-nine women provided information which resulted in the arrest, conviction, and execution of the rapist.

5. The Lust Murderer

Death is his name because he is only going to be satisfied with killing his victim. Time after time news articles describe a person being found brutally beaten or slashed to death, and because there is no obvious or understandable evidence of a sex offense police immediately conclude that sex was not the motive. This is a serious error.

The lust murderer secures his sexual satisfaction by the killing of a person accompanied by physical violence:

a. The Piquer or Slasher

This is an individual who secures sexual satisfaction

through the slashing, cutting, or piercing of flesh with razors, knives, pins, or any sharp instrument.

b. The Flagellant or Beater

This is an individual who secures sexual satisfaction by the punching, beating, clubbing, whipping, or strapping the victim.

6. The Arsonist

The arsonist in many instances is a pyromaniac who prowls for the purpose of setting fires in order to satisfy a sex desire. Again these people must be considered dangerous because they do not care whether or not there are persons in the buildings they burn. An arsonist in Pennsylvania was sent away because of his pyromania or tendency toward setting fires and when he was paroled he drifted toward voyeurism. Several women refused to testify against him and the police failed to notify the parole authorities. He later tried to have sex relations with a 14-year-old girl and killed her.

IV. MODUS OPERANDI

The prowler uses many subterfuges to avoid arrest:

A. The Drunk

He will pretend he is intoxicated and does not know what he is doing. He will put up a facade, a ridiculous act in order to catch the officer off guard, make you laugh, or try to make you believe he is not responsible for what he is doing.

Be very careful not to let him near you. He is able to grab your gun - throw you to the ground - or deliver a

damaging blow. Be careful of his clumsy attempts to produce identification because it well could mean a gun.

B. The Dog Walker

A dog has proved one of the best excuses for prowlers who reside in an immediate neighborhood. It is a common fallacy for everyone to think that a dog lover is a nice kind person. He will have ready excuses that his dog ran away or pulled him onto the property. Make sure that this man's identity is established for your police files in order to form an activity pattern.

On one occasion a man had a knife strapped to his dog's side, and on another occasion a derringer was hidden in a dog's blanket. The man in each instance pretended he was trying to quiet the dog but reached for the weapon.

C. The Lost Person

Many will pretend that they have lost their way and are looking for a fictitious friend or address. This presents the officer with a very difficult subterfuge to detect inasmuch as people are always trying to find friends in a wrong neighborhood. This takes close and intelligent questioning.

Once again make him identify himself but be careful of the hands in the pocket. Query him as to how he got there, and if he states it was by automobile look the car over as best you can, record plate and have him produce a driver's license. This should also be made a matter of record in your police files together with the license number of the car.

D. The Female Impersonator

Many prowlers dress as women because they attract less attention, and no one becomes alarmed by their presence. Strange women or suspicious women in a neighborhood should be questioned just as thoroughly as a man. This can be always done under the pretext of offering assistance.

E. Door to Door Salesmen

This is one of the most dangerous but frequently used pretexts used by the prowler. Police records are replete with rapes, child molestations, robberies, and assaults as a result of housewives or children admitting strangers who pose as magazine, insurance, or gadget salesmen. It is essential that you educate your community to immediately report any suspicious door to door peddlers, and if you, yourself, see them you should require identification and record same.

Many police departments will not let them into the area unless they register are licensed and give proof of identification. This does not mean that a crime will not take place. It can mitigate the possibility, however.

F. Uniformed - Workman

Many prowlers dress as painters, delivery men, or walk around carrying a wrench, a coil of wire, etc., in their hand as though they were working in the neighborhood. This is an excellent pretense around deserted homes or even for gaining

entry into houses during the daytime claiming they are from the electric, gas, or telephone company.

Albert Fish, one of the most notorious sex criminals of all time, stated that he had relations with several hundred children and usually wore a painter's cap and coveralls because this gave him an apparently legitimate reason to frequent empty houses and at the same time made it difficult for his victims to recognize him. Usually the person sees the uniform and seldom the face and a civilian attire lineup is unproductive.

G. Friendly Neighbors

You are often going to stop individuals under suspicious circumstances who do live in an immediate neighborhood. Unfortunately, we are always looking for the dangerous stranger. The vast majority of sex offenses are committed by individuals who are either friends or acquaintances of the victim. Have the person identify himself and the name be made part of the file. If you know him and identification is not necessary, again enter his name into your file. Recordations of known and suspicious persons, is a must.

H. Miscellaneous Subterfuges

One of the fallacies of human life and it applies to the police business is "you look but you do not see." This means that you are already satisfied in your mind as to the meaning of what you see. Many times a brief analysis of what you see will indicate that it is a definite danger.

1. A car jacked up, hub cap on ground

A flat tire.

Is the tire flat?

Many times the prowler uses this as a subterfuge for having his car in the area and for his being there. Take license number and give consideration to remaining at car until owner returns or checking to see if the tire is really flat.

2. Man encountered carrying gas can in hand

He has run out of gas, and this accounts for his presence in the neighborhood.

Is there gas in the can and is his car out of gas?

3. Hood of car up

Motor trouble?

Remain for owner to return and check to see if there is motor trouble.

4. Car parked, man sitting in passenger seat

He is waiting for driver to return.

This is a favorite subterfuge of prowlers because while suspicion is usually attached to a man parked in a car sitting in the driver's seat, it is immediately conceded that a passenger has a right to be there until the driver returns.

5. Man and woman in car apparently petting

A pair of lovers

On numerous occasions this subterfuge has been used for lookouts. Burglary rings in cities and suburbs continually utilize a young man and girl to pose as lovers and to accidentally hit the horn as a warning when police cars or footmen appeared.

6. A man blows a horn as you pass.

It was an accident.

It could be the same as the previous case.

As a lookout he is warning that there is danger.

7. A young man running in sweat clothes.

He is out for exercise.

This has been used as a subterfuge on many occasions because the athlete is in the same class as the dog lover. He is automatically passed as being all right.

V. THE LAW

Know your applicable state law and related statutes.

VI. POLICE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CASE OF THE PROWLER

A. Through Training

Officers, must be thoroughly trained in every phase of dealing with the prowler. This is not a hit-and-miss method of operation because you will find that the prowler is a real enemy. By appearance alone he can cause unrest and fear in a

community. If he commits a serious crime, the unrest turns into open demand and fear becomes terror.

The officer must be trained to recognize the danger, the numerous subterfuges, the prowler's modus operandi, and the action he, himself, is to take in answer to these different alarms.

It is mandatory that new officers be fully aware of a department's policies, in this phase of their work.

B. Planning

There should be definite plans of operation. Each man should know what his duties are, whether he is on foot or in a car, whether he is the first man at the scene or the last man, or what to do in the event he is alone.

C. Understanding

Not only must the head of the department understand the ramifications and danger of this problem, but the governing civic body, mayor and council or the board of commissioners, and every man on the force must be thoroughly indoctrinated with the seriousness of the situation.

D. Constant Alertness

Every police officer whether on or off duty must be constantly alert for any action which indicates a prowler and should make every provision for taking them into custody.

Every citizen should be taught to be constantly alert and to make immediate notification to the police of any individual who arouses his suspicions.

VII. POLICE ACTION ON ALARM

The basic principle of prowler investigations are that you intend to contain him in the area. The prowler is your prey, your investigation is a hunt, and you will never catch your game if you continually flush him out of the area.

Upon receipt of a call advising of a prowler you have several immediate considerations:

To return the call to make certain it is a bonifide call.

Take into consideration that your call may alarm the prowler if he should hear the ring.

Sound field procedures demand that all calls be thoroughly investigated. This means that an assignment, regardless of the number of false alarms, must be regarded as genuine until proven otherwise. The fact that more than one police unit is usually dispatched to investigate a prowler assignment points up the seriousness of such an investigation.

In new developments and in many suburban areas it is most difficult for the police officers to find the house of the complainant. All houses look alike, the roads are not well marked, and there are no numbers on the house. The

person receiving this type of call should try to get detailed information on how to identify the house, and there should be a detailed map of the territory in each squad car.

A. Have a Prearranged Plan

Follow the prearranged instructions:

1. Go in fast with the siren and revolving light to clear the way hoping to catch him in the area before he can get away.
2. Go in fast without a siren hoping to accomplish the same purpose.
3. Approach quickly and quietly and under no circumstances use either the siren or revolving red light.

B. Arrival on the Scene

1. Shut off the engine as you approach the complainant's address. Coast to within one or two houses.
2. Use the hand brake to stop the vehicle and turn the handle as it is being applied to prevent the ratchet from engaging. The foot brake is not applied as the taillights will attract attention.
3. Turn off the ignition and remove the keys. Place the car keys, loose change and any other objects that may jingle in the same pocket and cover with your handkerchief.
4. Be careful when removing your seat belt--do not let it drop against the doorsill. Ease yourself out of the car and don't slam the door.

5. Remain in the shadows and walk on the lawn rather than on the sidewalk where footsteps can easily be heard. Look and listen for any suspicious movements or sounds.

6. Even the most innocent appearing individual in the area must be questioned.

7. If a vehicle drives rapidly away from the scene immediate pursuit should be under taken. However, inform the dispatcher of your action, giving a description of the vehicle as quickly as possible and dispatch another car to cover the area until the complaint can be resolved.

8. If nothing unusual is observed, proceed to the complainant's address and assume a position at one of the front corners of the house. This will permit you to keep two sides of the home under surveillance (one side and the front). The search is not a one-man job--wait until the arrival of additional help.

C. Preliminary Search

1. A preliminary search is made as soon as at least two officers are on scene. It is conducted to locate the prowler, to uncover any evidence indicating a crime has been committed or attempted and to reassure the complainant.

2. One officer conducts the search while the other takes a position at a front corner of the building on the side opposite the start of the search.

When you are engaged in a search, walk in a low crouch and keep close to the building. This position decreases the possibility of casting a shadow or being silhouetted against the building. It also presents a potential attacker with a smaller target.

3. Hold the flashlight to the side and away from your body. Although it poses a hazard, its usefulness outweighs its danger. Use the light sparingly and point it in the direction you are heading.

4. Check windows, screens and doors for pry marks or other indications of an attempted burglary; scan the ground for footprints or other evidence pointing to the presence of a prowler.

5. Direct the light beam into shrubbery and the nearby trees. Check the yard, the garage and the outbuildings.

D. Victim Interrogation

Find out in a quick and concise manner the details of the offense or attempted offense. Immediately broadcast to other units and advise your headquarters. Do not stay out of communication.

One immediate factor to determine is can the victim make an identification. Try to get some definite descriptive information hurriedly which will enable you and your fellow officers to make snap a judgment as to whether or not a person might be a suspect.

Immediately determine whether or not the prowler may be concealed in the house, and even if there is no indication that he is, consider an investigation to be certain.

E. Interviewing the Complainant

1. During this phase of the operation it is best to have the assigned officer and one of the assisting officers present while the complainant is interviewed.
2. Reassure the complainant that you have adequate assistance on hand and that the situation is under control.
3. Never alarm the citizen by remarking this must be the burglar or moron who is running wild in the neighborhood.
4. When the complainant has been reassured that action is being taken, obtain a description of a suspect if the prowler has been observed. Let the complainant give the description, do not suggest wearing apparel, physical defects, etc. However, try to obtain outstanding characteristics to facilitate recognition.
5. If a preliminary search has uncovered evidence that a prowler was present and a crime attempted, inform the complainant of your intention to conduct a more thorough search and to remain indoors.
6. Other units in the area should be apprised of current descriptive information.

Remember that many calls of this type are without foundation, but you must investigate each one as though it were true.

ILLUSTRATION:

Women are the worst offenders. They are by nature timid and frightened easily. Many have hallucinations, others are in the change of life, and there is still another group who thrive on excitement. On one occasion police received several calls from a woman complaining that a man was trying to break into her house. Police were unsuccessful in making an apprehension. Finally two officers remained on surveillance, and despite the fact that no one came near the house during this surveillance, the woman made two calls to the police station advising that someone was trying to break in.

F. Secondary Search

At least four officers should undertake the secondary search. Two officers conduct a closer search of the premises while two other officers undertake to cover the alleys and streets in the immediate vicinity. Before the search begins, the men are briefed on the information already on hand and agree on a plan of action--where to conduct the search and the type of signals they will use.

1. Searching the Premises

This search can be made by two officers. It begins at the front of the house and proceeds towards the back. This operation is conducted to uncover any evidence which may have

been overlooked and to locate the prowler, who may still be hiding on the premises.

The search proceeds slowly and cautiously, the flashlight being held away from the body. The light is directed into an area before advancing into it--stop, listen and move ahead again.

Examine basement windows for tampering. Direct the light into the branches of nearby trees, the roof, and exposed beams. Examine the shrubbery and the flower beds.

Illuminate all shadows, stair wells and the area behind fences. Look for freshly broken branches, bits of clothing caught in shrubbery or abandoned burglar's tools. Footprints may indicate the direction of flight. Shine your light obliquely on the lawn to detect any footprints left on the wet grass.

Most backyards contain hazards. Direct the light on the ground and ahead of you before advancing. Maintain a crouched position--this will allow you to clear most clothes-lines. Beware of low fencing that may trip you. Keep abreast of other officers to avoid any possible cross fire. Check carefully all outbuildings, their roofs, barbeque pits and refuse containers, etc.

2. The Neighborhood Search:

While two officers are conducting the search of the premises, the prowler must be sought out in the nearby streets and alleys.

During this search the vehicle is never operated at a faster rate of speed than the normal traffic flow. The officers must also frequently leave the police vehicle to examine areas which cannot be illuminated by a spotlight.

Any person observed running, walking rapidly or apparently hiding in the shadows must be investigated. The spotlight is used extensively. It may not only reveal a suspect's hiding place but may also frighten him into running and revealing himself. The spotlight is moved slowly and directed into likely hiding places, parked automobiles, stair wells, under porches, between buildings, etc.

A suspect may hide behind a tree or post and slowly move around to escape detection as the vehicle passes. You must then be alert for an exposed foot, hand, clothing or tell-tale shadow as the light strikes such a potential hiding place.

VIII. TECHNIQUES OF THE PROWLER

A. On Foot

The prowler may enter an area by walking in. He feels that he can work better without the responsibility of a car and possible identification from the same. He must however, make his way out on foot in the event of an outcry unless he can:

1. Steal a car
2. Change his clothes to avoid identification.

On numerous occasions the prowler would wear overalls or a jumper and peel out of it in a matter of seconds and appear well dressed and at great variance with the description as originally given by the complainant.

3. Conceal himself in the area until the excitement has died down.

B. In an Automobile

This, of course, is one of the favorite methods of prowler transportation. He can watch from an automobile until the time he wants to move and can return to it as a hiding place for himself or his loot. There is always danger of identification through the license number.

C. From His Home in The Immediate Neighborhood

D. From an Apartment Rented in the Immediate Neighborhood

E. From a Fixed Location

1. In a store
2. A deserted building
3. A hiding place
4. A park

IX. INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

Where there have been a large number of prowling complaints or you are suspicious of one operating in an area, consider:

A. Fixed Locations

Have a man observe from a fixed post in a cellar, a house, a tree, a car, or other places of concealment. Have him

remain there for the entire tour of surveillance. Do not have unnecessary movement.

B. Foot Surveillances

Dressed innocuously he can wander as unobtrusely as possible through the area being constantly on the alert for indications of prowlers. There is always the chance that he, himself, may be reported as a prowler.

C. The Use of Subterfuge

1. Dress as a woman
2. Act A Part
3. Dress As Repairmen etc.

D. By Car Patrol

The use of car patrol is a technique of its own. The car moves quickly and can miss important action by a second. Never maintain the same routes nor use a schedule because the prowler is quick to note such action:

1. Know the physical structure of your beat.
2. Utilize the "Clover Leaf" plan of patrol.
3. Retrace routes.
4. Zig zag starting at one corner of the beat and work to the opposite corner and then reverse your route.
5. Slowly cruise the back streets and residential areas. Don't remain on main thoro fares continuously.
6. Park in places of concealment and observe.

E. By Foot Patrol

Do not be in a hurry. Observe, retrace your steps, pause, and using partial concealment try to observe. See, don't just look.

F. Use of Dogs

This is rapidly becoming a very valuable police technique. Many departments are utilizing police dogs in the search of buildings, the search of estates, and the tracking down of a fleeing prowler. Care must be used in utilizing this technique, and only a person who thoroughly understands the dog should be permitted to handle him.

X. USE OF DECOYS

This plan has many advantages and disadvantages. The decoy is usually:

A. A woman set up on a corner, a park, or a logical spot hoping to draw the prowler to the attack.

B. A child in a place which has been frequented by the pedophile such as a playground, a movie, bus station, etc.

C. A policeman dressed as a woman. He can either stand on the corner or sit in a parked car.

D. An open window inviting burglary.

E. A woman undressing in a dimly lit room with upraised shade to catch the Peeping Tom.

The advantages are:

A. It can trap or bait the criminal.

B. If nothing happens, you have reason to believe he is not operating in the area.

The disadvantages are:

A. The decoy is liable to be injured.

B. It is possible the prowler may get away with the decoy.

ILLUSTRATION:

In one case a policeman used his wife as a decoy to trap a rapist. The rapist roared up in a high-powered car, pulled the woman into the car, and got away before the officers could leave their hiding places.

ILLUSTRATION:

A policewoman under the pretense that she was a willing model for obscene pictures contacted the operators, but the officers who were supposed to be surveilling her missed the tail, and she had many anxious moments before the surveillance was picked up.

XI. STOP DEFINITE SUSPECTS

If we stop a definite suspect, we must be extremely careful. We may want to:

Question him

Search him

Detain him

A. Pay close attention to a suspect's hands, face, clothing and shoes when you are conducting your field inquiry.

B. Fresh scratches on the neck, face and hands may indicate he has been running through shrubbery.

C. Fresh paint or whitewash stains on his clothing and hands can also show the suspect may have leaned against a building or has been climbing fences.

D. The trouser cuffs should be checked for bits of vegetation.

E. In dry weather, muddy or wet shoes may indicate the suspect has been walking through a garden.

F. Be suspicious of grass stains or bits of freshly cut grass adhering to the shoes.

G. Check the forehead for beads of perspiration, watch for heavy breathing. Place your hand on the suspect's chest to detect an unusually rapid and strong heart beat, which is also indicative of physical exertion, such as running.

H. Persons who appear to be intoxicated must be questioned. It has been found that criminals have posed as drunks to avoid detection by inexperienced officers.

J. Check out the identity and address of a person observed walking his dog. Frequently a lookout will resort to this trick to throw the police off guard.

J. A burglar or a person intent upon committing a serious crime recognizes that prowling is a minor offense, if a crime at all. He may admit being on the property by mistake or state that he had to relieve himself. Such an individual should not be dismissed before being thoroughly investigated.

XII. CHECK OF VEHICLES

A. The driver and the occupants of any vehicle which rapidly pulls away from the curb at the approach of a police vehicle should be stopped and questioned.

B. As you search the neighborhood, you should also look under parked vehicles --a common hiding place. Persons found in parked vehicles must be questioned to determine the reason he is in the neighborhood.

C. Place your hand on the hood of a parked automobile. If it feels warm obtain a registration check. When a vehicle is not registered to an address in the immediate vicinity, it may be necessary to stake-out the auto.

D. Select a position that will give you a clear field of vision without being observed. The police vehicle should be facing in the same direction as the vehicle being watched.

E. Inform the radio dispatcher of your actions so that other police units can be kept out of the area.

XIII. TECHNICAL DETECTIONS

There are many technical detections which can be utilized in the investigation of the prowler.

A. Cameras

Which will go off automatically if a window is raised or a certain wire is stepped on.

B. Infrared

A camera with infrared film will take a picture in the same way without giving a flash and alerting the criminal

to the fact that he has been detected.

C. Aniline Dyes

These are powders which when touched by the skin will leave a deep stain when the hands are washed and are almost impossible to erase. Some of the powders which have been used are methylene blue, malachite green, and crystal violet. They may show in the daytime on light surfaces because of their color. If it rains the powders can be washed away.

D. Fluorescent Powders

This powder is invisible even when on the prowler's hands or clothing, but placed under an ultraviolet light each speck fluoresces brightly. Some of the better known powders are fluorescein and rhodamine B. There is a big advantage in that these powders do not wash away although their value is lessened. The powder clues can be found not only on the hands but on the clothing and shoes.

E. Electric Step-On Alarms

Traps similar to land mines can be placed in areas so that the prowler stepping on the trap will automatically light a light or create a low buzz so that those on surveillance will know that a stranger is in the area.

F. Trip Wires

These are wires laid one or two inches from the ground which when broken by the intruder will either light a light or activate a sound device.

G. Television

Television can be used to spot intruders in area difficult to surveil.

XIV. OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS OF A PROFESSIONAL BURGLAR WHOSE ARREST CLEARED OVER 800 BURGLARIES IN A LARGE WESTERN CITY.

A. Clothing Worn:

1. Advised he always dressed nicely so that he would not look out of place in a neighborhood.
2. Always wore dark clothing at nighttime.
3. Usually wore thick soled rubber shoes, a couple of sizes too big, which were filled by wearing three pairs of socks.

B. Tools:

1. Stated he never carried any tools, except a three-bladed knife and a small flashlight. The knife had one heavy blade used as a pry; a medium sized blade for cutting screens, and a small blade for working locks.

C. Vehicles Used:

1. Had numerous stolen cars at his disposal at all times.
2. He maintained a "personal" car and others that were "work" vehicles.
3. He kept the stolen cars out of circulation until they were off the "hot sheet" before he would use them.

4. He would usually fix his radio to get police calls in the area where he worked.

D. Selecting Victims:

1. Usually selected an average, nice residential area where the people worked, and as such, he could always figure on cash lying around.
2. Friday nights was particularly good and it was not unusual for \$200 to be lying around in a house.
3. On occasions, he followed an individual home if an individual appeared to be the type that might have money lying around the house.

E. Casing the Victim:

1. If the house appeared unoccupied, the subject tried the garage or basement first.
2. If there was an extension telephone, he would dial the ring-back number, and see if anyone answered. If not, he assumed the coast was clear.
3. If it was a warm night and windows were open, he would attempt to detect snoring.
4. He did not attempt to enter a house if a dog was barking.

F. The Crime:

1. Preferred glass patio doors first, other doors next, and side windows last.

2. His knife would easily open the average locked door.
3. When inside, if the weather was cool, he would turn up the thermostat, causing popping and crackling, which would cover up any noise he might make.
4. He would always return thermostat to original setting before leaving house.
5. When hitting several houses in a neighborhood, he would pile the loot near the curb or sidewalk under the bushes. Occasionally he would use trash barrels. When he was completed for the night, he would return to his car, drive back, and load the loot into his automobile.

G. The Flight:

1. When he was discovered and police started moving in, he would go to the nearest tree and get on a flat roof. He commented that police look under everything but for some reason never look up.
2. When he had to flee the area on foot, he never used streets or alleys, he would always go over fences and hedges for blocks, always paralleling the streets being searched.

3. When he had to cross a side street to continue his backyard flight, he would wait and listen first.
4. He never worried about foot searches, as policemen seldom leave their cars.
5. He commented that he was willing to tear and soil his clothing going through bushes and over fences, and figured policemen would not be too agreeable to doing this.
6. Stated that in observing police officers shake down an area, it appeared they did not really expect to find anyone, that they either thought it was a phony call or that the subject was gone. They made motions like they were searching, but did not look.
7. After the immediate search, he would count off the police officers as they left, and could tell whether both officers got into the automobile by the doors slamming.
If only one door slammed before a car left, he knew one of the police officers had waited behind, and he remained in hiding.
8. On one occasion, he hid in a closet above a wardrobe for 18 hours in a vacant house. Several officers had searched the house, but none had looked in the closets.

H. Field Shakes:

1. He had often been stopped and given citations when in a stolen car, but always remained calm. He stated he always gave the name on the registration or the stolen operator's license, and the police seldom checked to see if the description tallied.
2. On occasions when he was stopped, the car was loaded with stolen merchandise in plain sight; however, most officers did not inquire about it, apparently because he was at ease. He stated that if you acted nonchalant and at ease, the police figured you were okay.

I. Being Logical:

1. Attributed his success to figuring out what the police would probably do, and he would do the opposite.
2. Nearly all policemen follow a similar or fixed pattern.
3. By watching a particular street, he was able to figure how much coverage it got, and how attentive the radio team that covered that area might be, as to what was going on.

XV. PUBLIC EDUCATION

This is an excellent opportunity to improve public relations and to acquaint the public through means of lectures

or pamphlets as to what to do in the event they suspect a prowler.

If he is outside they should quietly call the police without turning on a light.

If he is inside they should remain quiet and not attempt to apprehend him inasmuch as he is always better equipped, fully alert, and the citizen stands an excellent chance of being badly injured or killed.

There is always the possibility of frightening the prowler away by creating an uproar if he attempts to get in the house, but it is suggested that the householder be in a safe place when he raises the uproar.

A. Don't Promise the Public What You Can't Deliver

Don't lead people to believe that you have the situation well in hand and that there will be more prowling.

B. Don't Minimize the Danger of the Situation

C. Try to Hold Down Publicity

One story in the paper creates fear and will result in numerous calls of prowling which really do not exist.

XVI. HAVE AN AWARENESS

A. Persistency

If an individual keeps coming back he has a definite psychological or material reason.

If an individual keeps coming back he has a definite psychological or material reason.

B. Theft of Women's Lingerie From Clothes Lines

This is a sign of disturbed sexual nature, and while nothing more serious may occur there are long records of individuals committing terrible crimes after starting with this type of minor theft.

C. Be Alert to Faces

This also a psychological sign indicating a disturbed sexuality and a prompting to more serious crimes.

D. Be Alert to Vandalism

This is also a sign of disturbed sexuality and can be most consistent.

E. Babysitters

One of the chief victims of the prowler has been the babysitter. Many have been raped, murdered, mutilated, beaten, and kidnapped. Some have disappeared and have never been found. It is suggested that you institute a campaign in your community to educate the babysitter in her dealings with strangers who come to the door under pretext. She should thoroughly understand what to do in the event she suspects a prowler in the area.

XVII. GENERAL RULES

- A. Always consider the juvenile.
- B. Learn how to locate and lift latent fingerprints.
- C. Know how to make castings and use this technique.
- D. Be able to conduct effective crime scene search.

- E. Don't always look for the dangerous stranger, consider residents in the immediate area.
- F. Be familiar with neighborhood and have established informants.
- G. Disseminate information regarding prowlers to members of your own department and to surrounding departments.
- H. Check neighborhoods thoroughly for parked cars.
- I. These people are particularly agile and irresponsible. Don't take chances!
- J. Don't be fooled by refinement, position, character, reputation, or profession.

XVIV. ADMINISTRATIVE AIDS

In the investigation of prowlers police check many cars and question many people, but in numerous cases no record is made of either the cars or the persons. It is suggested that two general files be maintains:

A. The Suspicious Person File

Into which will be placed the names of all individuals who are questioned in connection with patrol, surveillances, or investigation of a complaint. An index card should be made for each, and if the same name appears on two or more occasions, you have reason to believe that you have likely suspect.

B. Suspicious Car File

Which are found in the vicinity of prowling complaints or any other type of crime. If you are a good investigator, you can well realize that this is an important technique even though in many cases it is tedious and unproductive.